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ation or prudence; the people and their just constitutional claims have been the constant objects of their scorn and derision, their unmitigated abhorrence and execration; and still in each wild and moody change of temper, these alternate excesses of rage and ridicule, of horror and contempt, have been but the varied expressions of their FEAR."^a

On the expressions in the first part of the foregoing quotation, which I here give in *italics*, the various anticipating remarks in these letters render it wholly unnecessary for me at present to make any addition. Touching your "jealous aristocracy" which, in charity we must suppose does not include all the borough patrons, when I contemplate the picture you draw, it only adds to my surprise, that you, as a reformist, only advocating the cause of justice and your country's liberty, should have fallen under the influence of a panic terror, where, in your own judgment, the whole conduct of your adversaries, the violators of that justice and that liberty, is, as is most natural it should, "only a varied expression of fear."

Agreeing with you in this sentiment, and fully persuaded also, that the faction—yes, Sir George Caley, "a handful of Lords,"—never will dare to hold up their heads, or to show their faces in opposition to radical reform, whenever public opinion on the necessity of it shall be made manifest, I, for the present, remain,

Dear Sir,

Truly your friend and servant,

JOHN CARTWRIGHT.

(To be continued)

SLAVE-TRADE.

The following remarks on Lord Castlereagh's conduct on this business in the late negotiation, as well as on his general character as a minister, appeared lately in the Examiner. They are well worthy of attention to counteract the present absurd fashion of bestowing praise where praise is not due. Lord Castlereagh's former conduct ought not to be forgotten, as the minister in Ireland from 1797 to 1801. His character is there written in forcible terms. Apostate from his early opinions

the insurrection in 1798, and the subsequent measure of the Union, may teach us rightly to appreciate this political Proteus.

PRINCE MAURICE'S PARROT; OR FRENCH INSTRUCTIONS TO A BRITISH PLENIPOLENTIARY.

1. That the French People were so deeply implicated in the Slave-Trade, as not even to know that it had been abolished by this country.

2. That the French Press had been so long under the complete despotic controul of Bonaparte, that the present government must despair of making any immediate impression on the independence of the political opinions, or the energetic firmness of the individual feelings of the people, lately consigned to their protection.

3. That such were their blind and rooted prejudices against the English, that we could only hope to convince them of our entire sincerity and disinterestedness in abolishing the Slave Trade ourselves, by lending a helping hand to its revival by others.

4. That if we consented to give up our colonial conquests to the French, on conditions dictated only by the general principles of humanity, this would be a proof that we intended to keep them in our own hands from the most base and mercenary motives.

5. That the French Government simply wished to begin the slave trade again as the easiest way of leaving it off, that so they might combine the experiment of its gradual restoration with that of its gradual abolition, and by giving the people an interest in it, more effectually wean their affections from it.

6. That it is highly honourable in us to have proposed, and in the French to have agreed, to the abolition of the Slave-trade, at the end of five years, though it would have been insulting in us to have proposed and degrading to them to have submitted to any stipulation on the subject.

7. That to rob and murder on the coast of Africa is among the internal rights of legislation and domestic privileges of every European and Christian State.

8. That we are not to teach the French people religion and morality at the point of the sword, though this is what we

^a Polit. Pap. III. Appendix, 82.

have been professing to teach them for the last two and twenty years.

9. That his most Christian Majesty Louis X. III. is so fully impressed with the humane and benevolent sentiments of the Great Britain and the Allies in favour of the abolition of the Slave Trade, that he was ready to have plunged all Europe into a war for its continuance.

10. That we could not possibly make the abolition, though the French Government would certainly have made the revival, of the Slave Trade a *sine qua non* in the Treaty of Peace, and that they would otherwise have gone to war to recover by force of arms what they can only owe to clemency or complaisance of our Negotiators.

Lastly, That by consenting to the re-establishment of the Slave Trade in France, we were most effectually preparing the way for its abolition all over the world.

"With so little a web as this will I ensnare so great a fly as *Cassio*!" Such were the formidable barriers, the intricate lines of circumvallation, drawn by the French round the abolition of the Slave Trade, as strong as those which they threw up to defend their capital: yet we think, that after our political missionary had over leaped the one, he might have broken through the other. Where there is a will, there is a way. But there are some minds to which every flimsy pretext presents an insurmountable obstacle, where only the interests of justice and humanity are at stake. These persons are always impotent to save, powerful only to oppress and to betray. Their torpid faculties and amiable apathy are never roused but by the calculations of self-interest, or the thirst of revenge. The glossy sleekness of the panther's skin does not blunt the sharpness of his fangs, and his fawning eye dooms his victim while it glitters. But to return to Lord Castlereagh. In the present instance he appears to have been cajoled into acquiescence from his indifference to the object. His speech contained nothing but a story of a cock and a bull, told by M. Talleyrand with great grace and gravity, assented to by his Lordship with equal affability and address, and repeated to the House of Commons with hesitating volubility and careless plausibility of manner. It is well to sacrifice to the graces; but it is too much to have sacrificed half a continent to the graces of M. Talleyrand's person, or the purity of

his French accent. We can imagine how the scene took place. This question of Africa being considered as an idle question, in which neither courts nor ministers were concerned, would be naturally left as a sort of *carte blanche* for all the flourishes of national *politesse*, as a kind of *no-man's ground* for a trial of diplomatic skill and complaisance. So Lord Castlereagh, drawing on his gloves, hemmed once or twice, while the French Minister carelessly took snuff: he then introduced the question with a smile, which was answered by a more gracious smile from M. Talleyrand: his Lordship then bowed, as if to bespeak attention; but the Prince of Benevento bowing still lower, prevented what he had to say; and the cries of Africa were lost amidst the nods and smiles and shrugs of these accomplished puppets. The ex-bishop of Autun may in future hope to find a successful representative in the English Ambassador from Paris; for the noble Secretary *mistified* the house, as he had himself been *mistified* by his Highness of Benevento. Count Fathom, after his defeat by the French Abbe, practised in this his adopted country with great applause. We may take this opportunity of remarking, that we do not think his Lordship at all improved during his stay in France. He performs the arc of his oscillation from the treasury bench to the table, and from the table back again, in a second less time than he used to do. He commits dullness with greater vivacity, and flounders more briskly in an argument. He is even grown tenacious of the immaculateness of his maiden treaty, which he will not have so much as suspected; and has enhanced the loose, dangling, slipshod manner, which so well accords with his person and understanding, into something positive and dogmatical. In this alteration of tone we think him wrong. We have always looked upon Lord Castlereagh as an excellent taffetta lining to a court dress; but he should leave the buckram of office to his friend the Secretary of the Admiralty.

SPEECH OF THE DUKE OF SUSSEX ON PRESENTING THE ANTI-ORANGE PETITIONS FROM THE NORTH OF IRELAND, ON THE 23D ULT.

The Duke of Sussex rose, and observed